

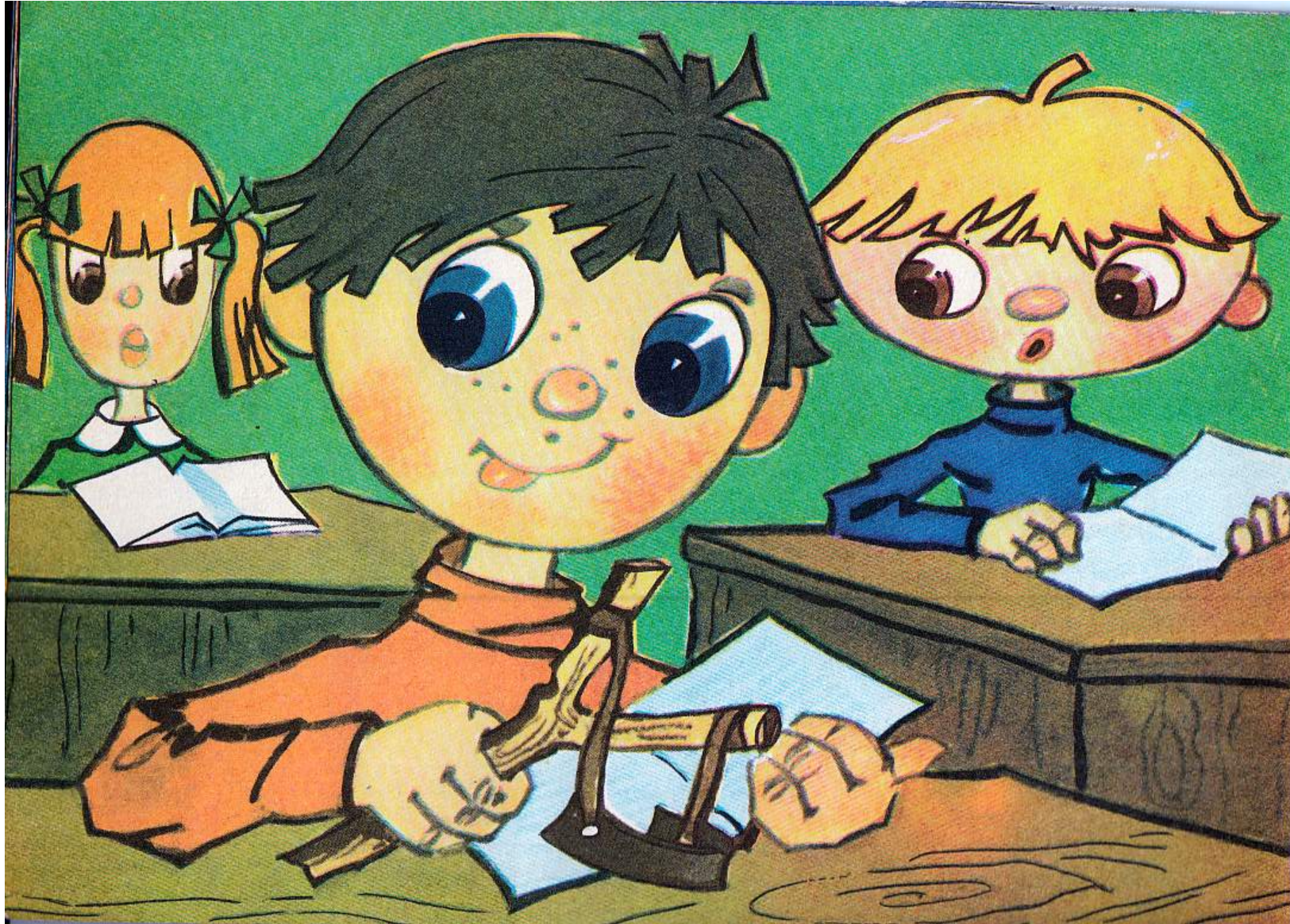
TALLINNFILM

Cartoon

OTT'S ADVENTURES IN SPACE

ELLEN
NIIT





There was once a schoolboy called Ott. In his class there were all kind of children, just as there are all kind of children in your class. There were good ones and not so good ones, some with fair hair and others with dark hair. There were quiet ones and mischievous ones and quite a few very restless ones. But Ott was the most restless of them all.

When the others were reading he was busy doing something else. When the others were listening attentively he could not keep his mouth shut. He scribbled all over his textbooks and teased the timid ones during the break. He fidgeted about and played with his catapult and made a complete nuisance of himself. His teachers were absolutely weary of him. As you might guess, he never learned anything.

When school was over he played so many pranks as would go into an afternoon. For instance, he liked to do arithmetic on doorbell buttons to find out how much two and three make. He also taught this kind of arithmetic to smaller boys. Ott certainly knew how to teach pranks.



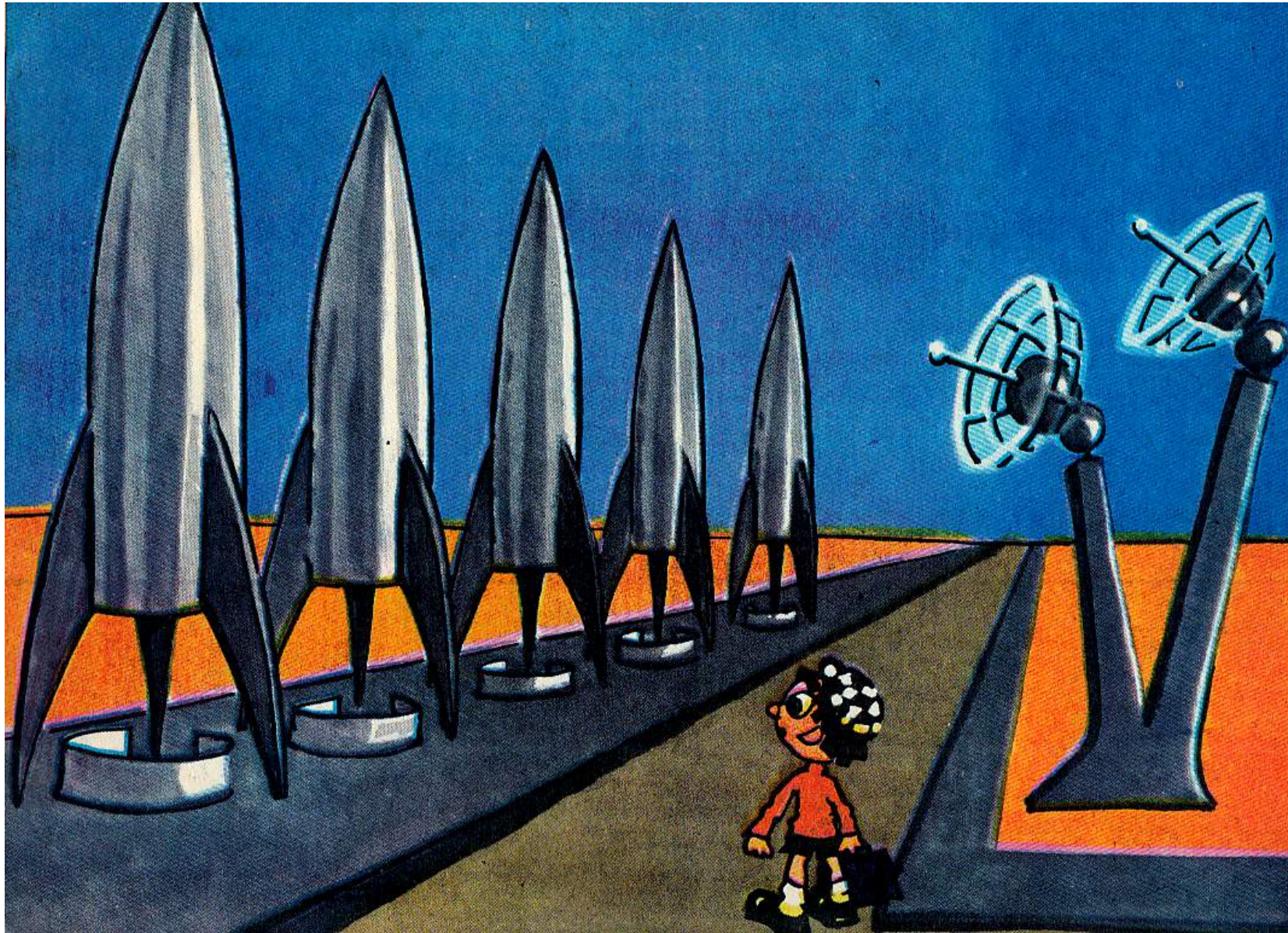


But as you know, a doorbell rings when you press the button.

When people came to the door, it was usually some smaller boy who got caught because by that time Ott was already out of sight. He had disappeared round the corner before anyone could catch him, and left the smaller ones, who weren't really naughty at all, to take the blame.

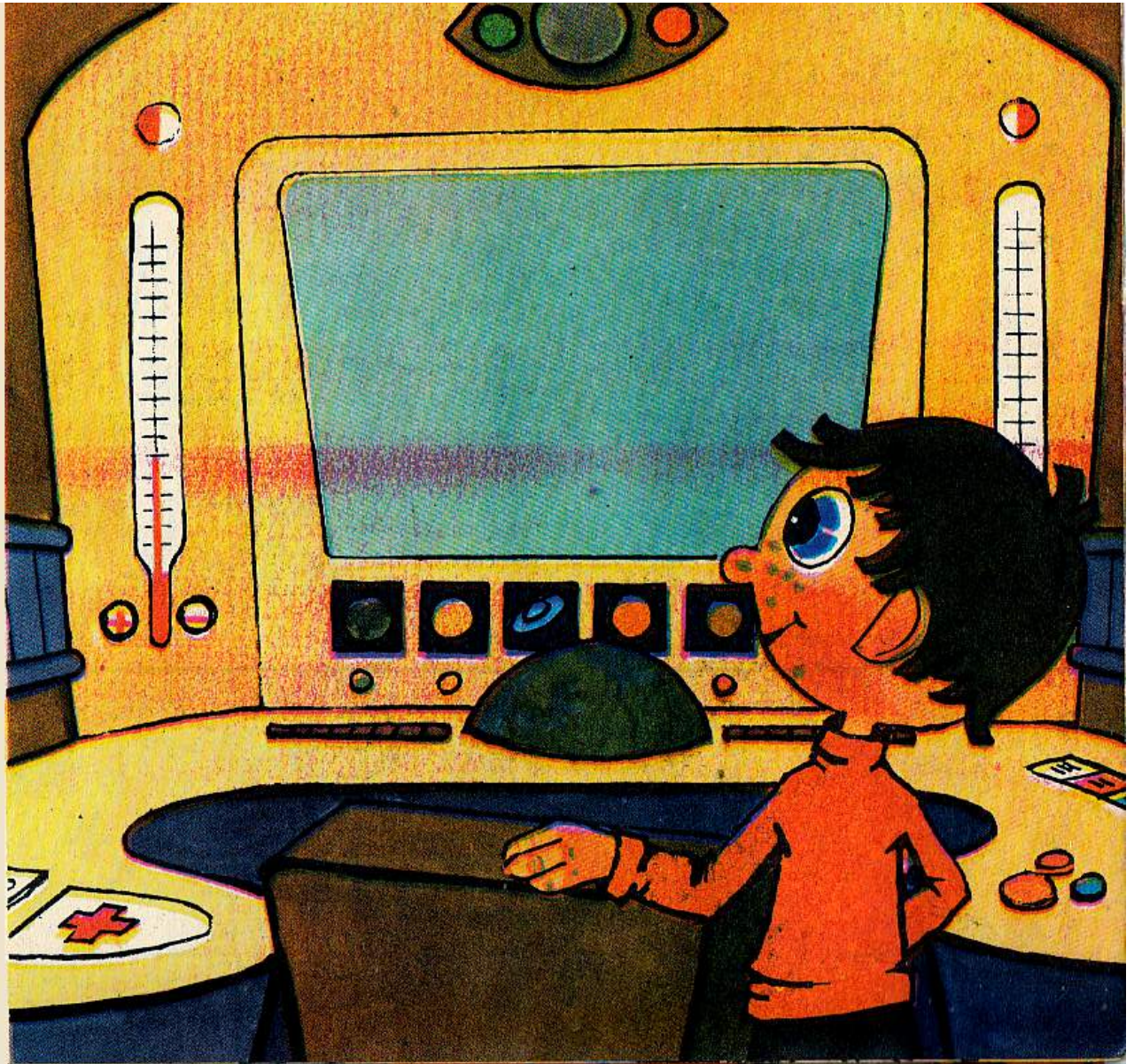
One day when Ott was again fleeing from the scene, a big truck happened to pass by. Ott jumped at the back of it. This was a very dangerous thing to do. Everyone would agree that the boy was off his head. Fortunately he didn't fall under the wheels, which could very well have happened. The truck travelled on to some place and so did Ott, who was still clinging on to it.

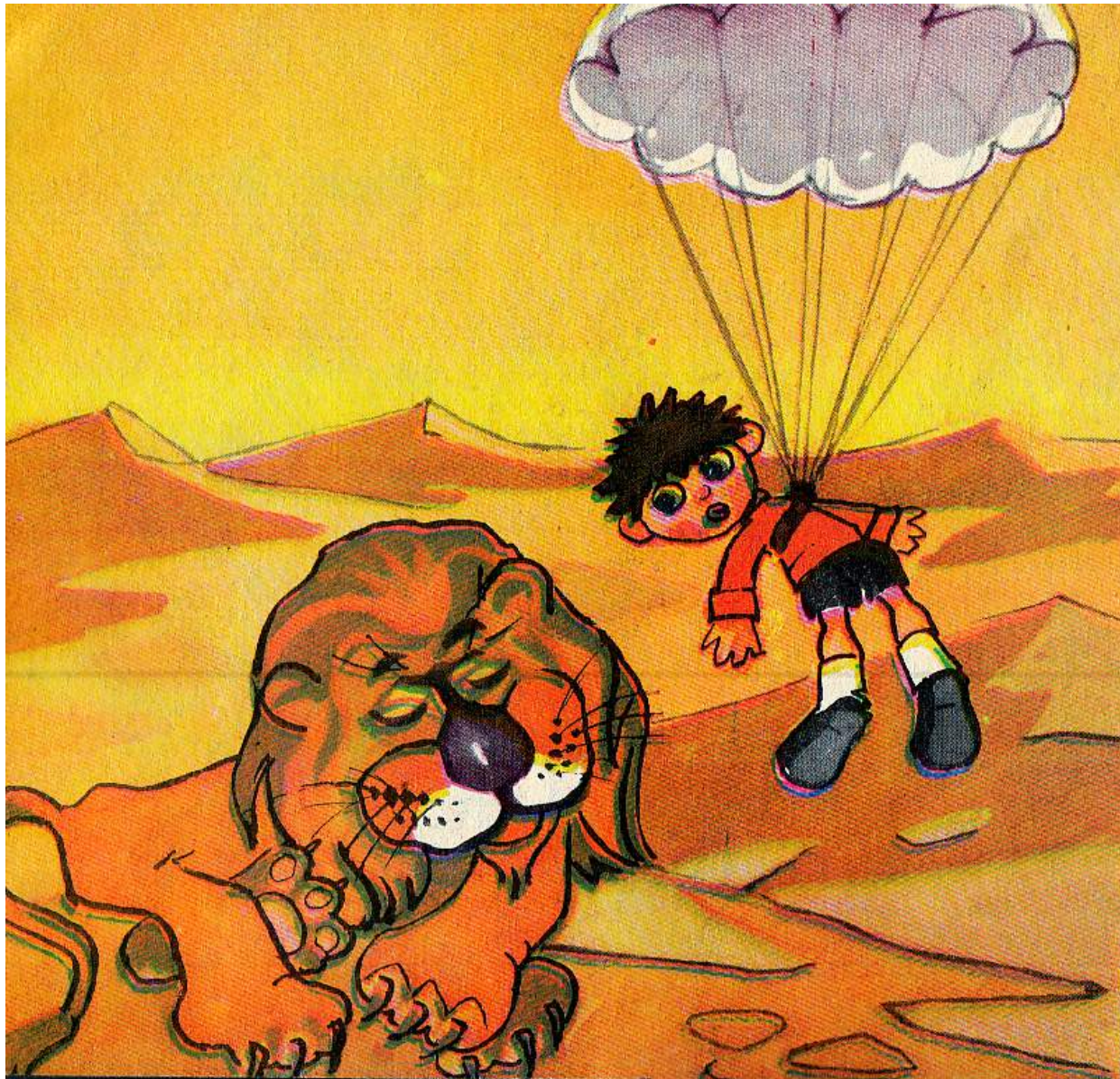




It turned out that the truck was going to a rocket base. This is a kind of home for rockets where they start off and return after a flight. There were rows upon rows of rockets in the huge field, but only a small team of men on duty. Too busy with their own work, none of them noticed that a little boy was in grave danger. As you surely know, small boys are always poking their noses everywhere. Ott, too, kept looking at the rockets until quite suddenly into one of them he slipped.

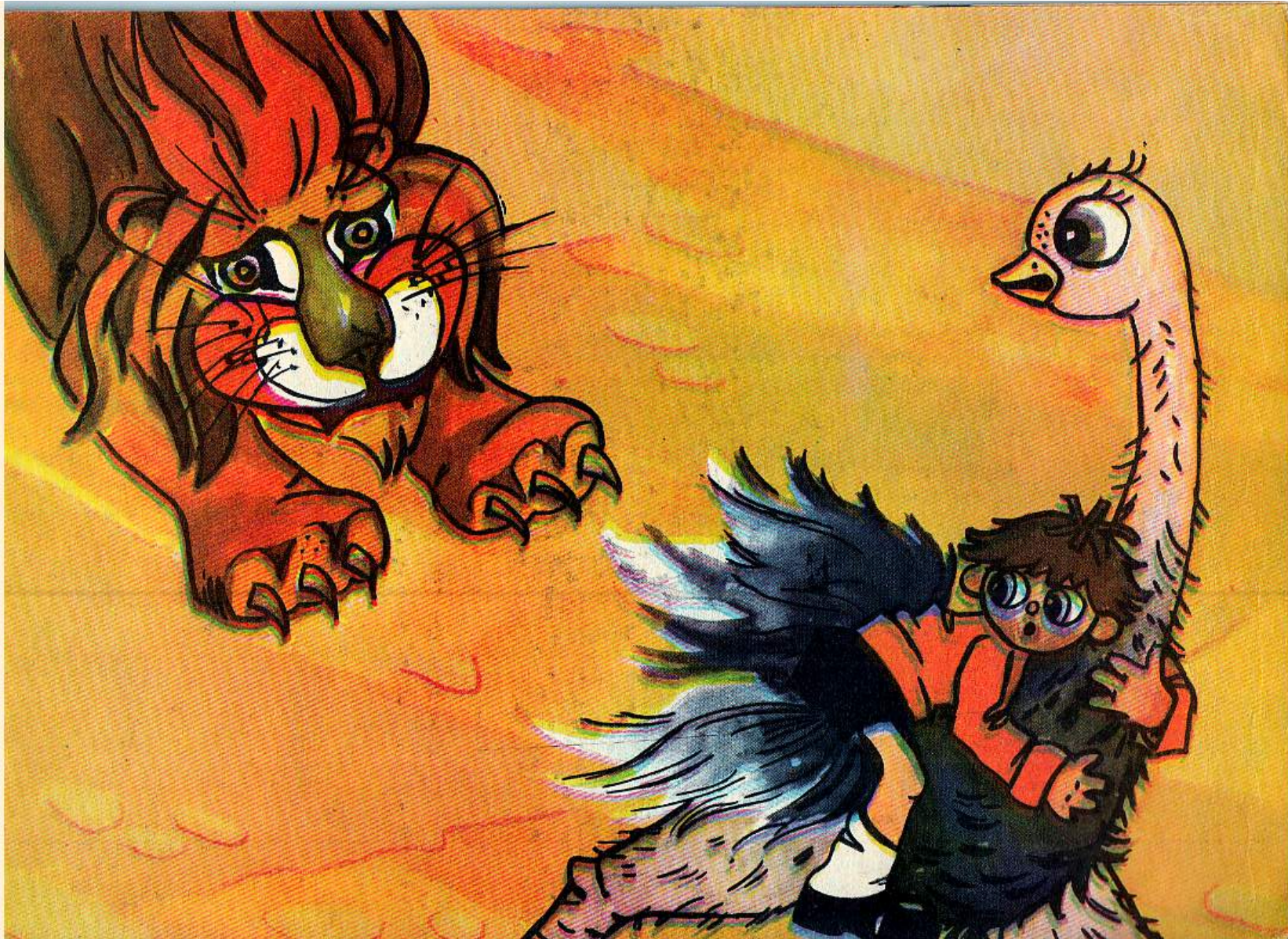
Inside the rocket there was a great number of buttons and panels. Before Ott could make out what they were all for, his restless fingers had already fiddled with some of them. Up zoomed the rocket, with Ott on board. It was too late now to consult his teacher or his father and mother. Even the operator's instructions from the ground bore no fruit. After all, Ott was only a small boy, and not a clever one at that.





The rocket was flying already over the continent of Africa before the operator managed to bring it down by remote control. He told Ott to parachute out before the rocket came down. However, the place where Ott landed was no rocket base but a desert, full of fearsome animals. It was a mere chance that Ott escaped from a lion who was prowling about.

He could thank his lucky stars that a huge bird, an ostrich, was nearby. Ostriches can run very fast but they can't fly. They also have a strange way of hiding themselves when in danger. They dig their heads into the sand, thinking they are safe. Ott plumped down on the back of the ostrich and the scared bird took to flight, carrying Ott with her.



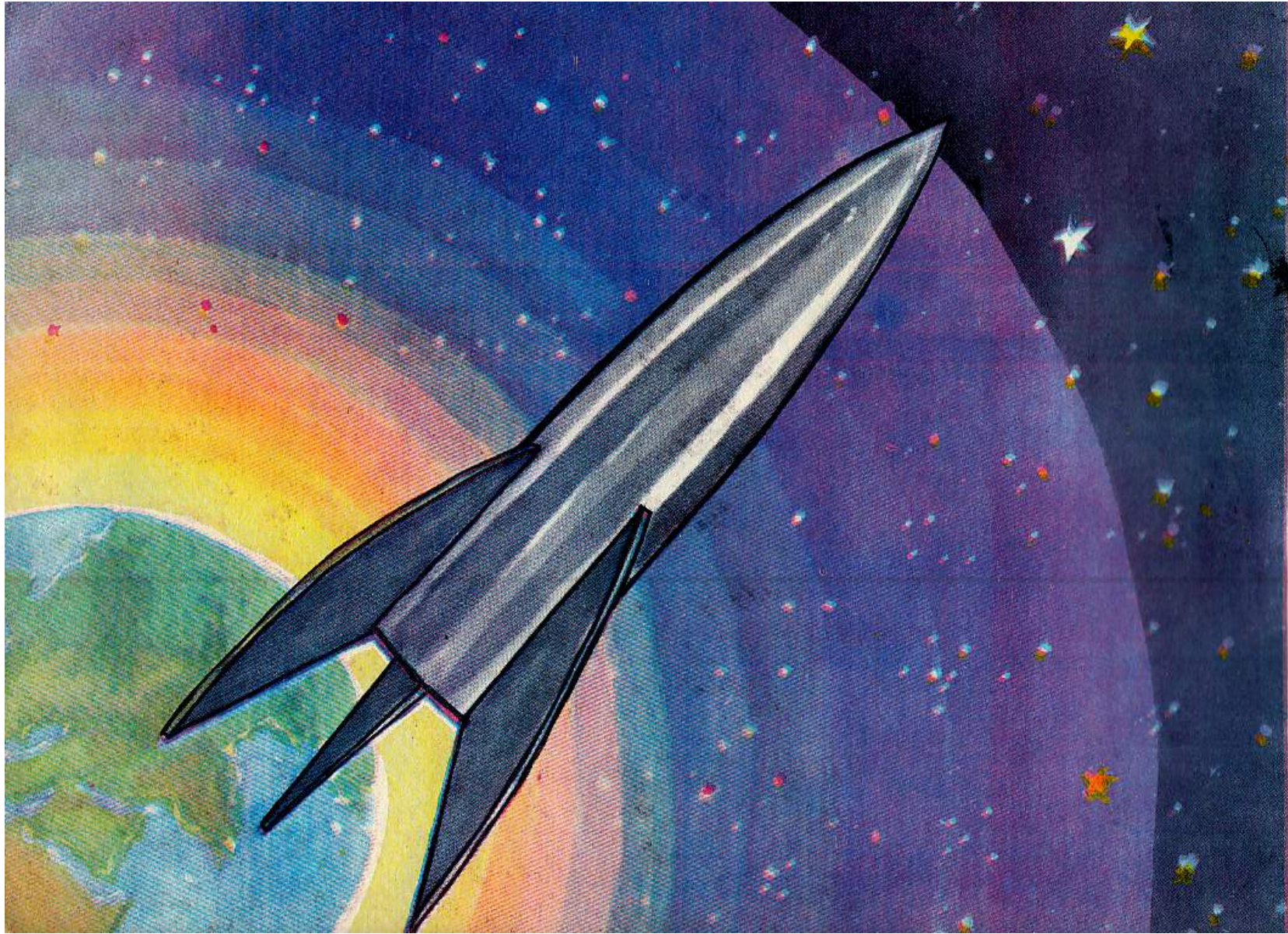


Shivering and trembling with fear, Ott fled to the shelter of his rocket. He closed all the doors and portholes. You can never be too safe when you have a lion to deal with. After all, lions are no pets. Ott was so scared that he didn't pay any attention to the radio messages which told him to wait as a rescue team had been sent out already. Instead, he pressed some more buttons on the panel and the rocket took off before the rescue team could reach him. But as we all know, the world is a huge place indeed.

Next Ott found himself in the Antarctic or the South Pole country where only the penguins live, and those fishes who don't mind swimming in the icy sea. Now and then explorers, too, go there to learn more about this vast land of ice and snow.

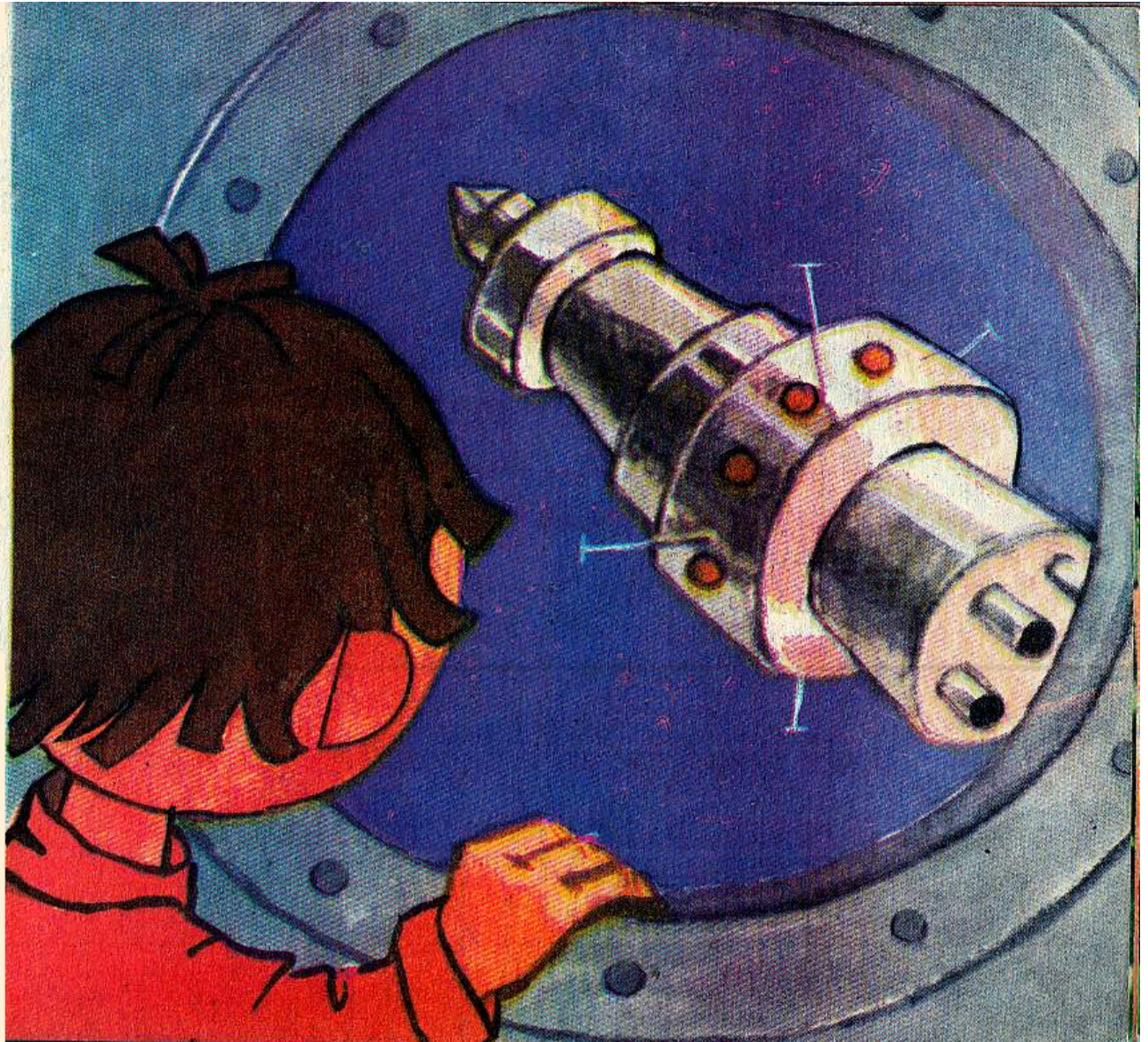
Once again the team did not manage to rescue Ott. He simply didn't wait there to be rescued. He was a very restless little boy. After having taken a look around, he returned to the rocket to continue his flight. Well, he was quite brave in his own way, and, like most little boys, he was adventurous too.





This time the rocket left the Earth altogether and headed for space. It zoomed along like an arrow and swirled about like a whirlwind. This happened because Ott simply did not understand the instructions he was given from the rocket base. He'd been too lazy at school to bother about learning, poor thing. Now he had to face all the dangers awaiting him in space.

The rocket base could not guide the rocket from the ground any longer. It was far out of their control system. They could keep in touch with Ott only by radio now, and Ott had to understand the orders on the spot.



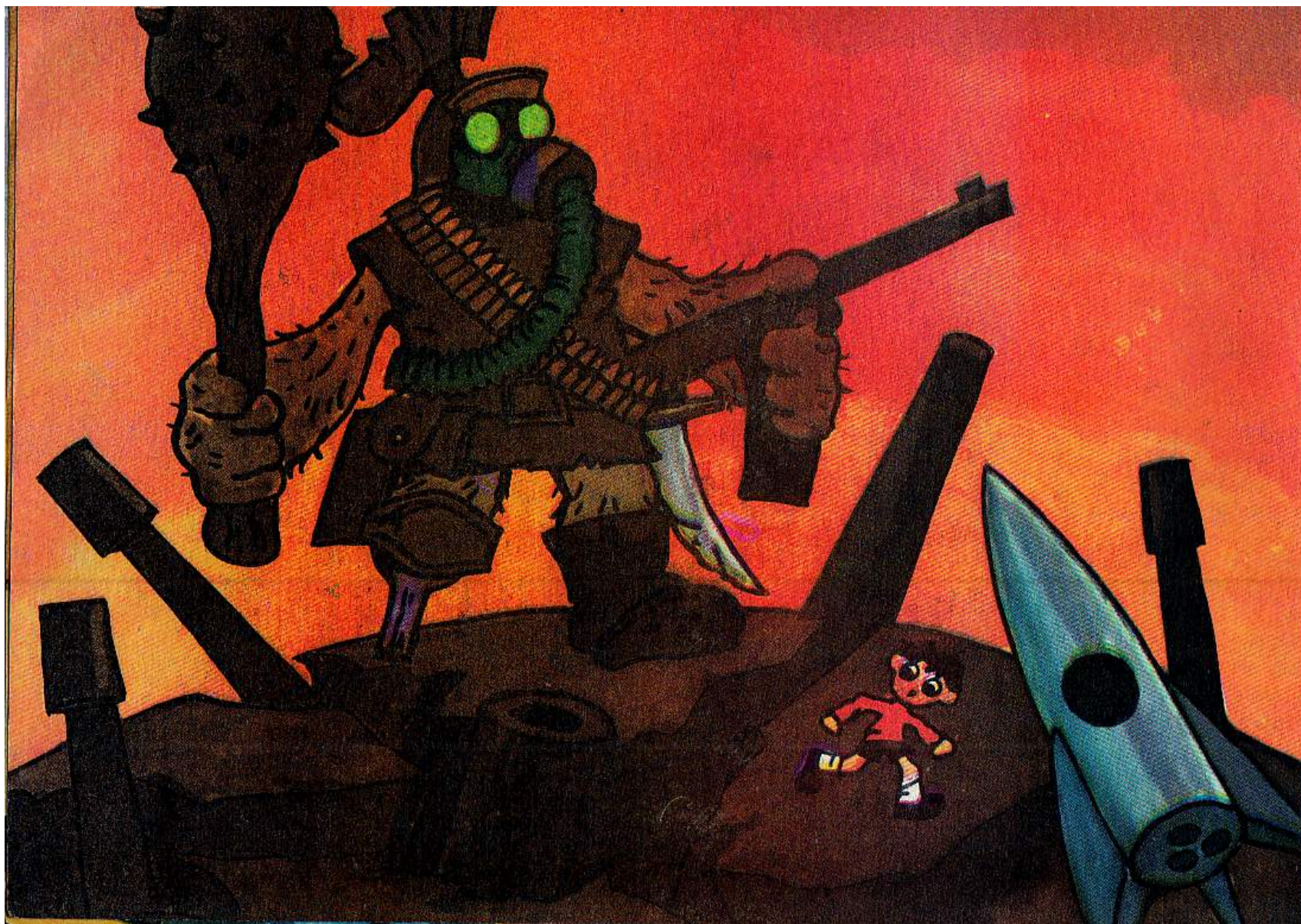


"Press the button with the picture of the Earth beside it," announced the radio. "Otherwise you'll never get back home and have to travel in space for ever."

Alas, Ott could not make out which was the right button. He felt hopelessly confused. Everything was mixed up in his small head. All he could do was burst into tears.

Instead of heading homeward, the rocket took its course to the planet Neptune. Astronauts have never been there, and therefore nobody knows exactly what it looks like. Our artists had to use a lot of imagination to describe Ott's adventures there. In the picture you can see a long-bearded man holding a trident. He was Neptune, the sea-god. Feeling very annoyed with the intruder Neptune wanted to fork Ott up with his trident. But then Ott began to sing, and Neptune got so carried away by his singing that he let the boy go. As it is, singing often has such a magical power.





When Ott was safely back in the rocket he could do nothing but continue travelling in space, for he still didn't know how to get back to the Earth. His next stop was on the planet Mars. No man has ever set foot on that planet either. Ott had the most terrible adventures there. The whole planet was glaring in a red glow of fire and Mars, the formidable war-god, was livid with rage. Ott was lucky indeed to make his escape.

When the rocket was taking off Mars attacked it with bombs. The rocket zoomed away before an atomic bomb almost destroyed the whole planet. It was a near thing, but Ott escaped unhurt.





Goodness knows, what would have happened if Ott had not found the right button which made the rocket return to the Earth. Our space traveller arrived home and everything ended well. But he didn't look a bit like a brave hero. He was shaken and worn out by the shattering experiences and the dangers he had had to face during the space flight.

Still, more often than not, we learn through hardships. Ott realized now that without working hard at school he will never get anywhere in life. He had learnt his lesson. From that day on Ott, who had been as silly as a goose and as dumb as a fish, began to study properly and became the top boy in his class.





Drawings by Halja Klaar
Translated from Estonian
by Evi Mannermaa
© Perioodika 1982
Printed in USSR